

REMARKS

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claimed the subject matter of the invention. Claim 6 is amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,540,071). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Liu discloses a case for holding two compact discs that includes first and second cover parts pivotally connected together so that they can be pivoted between a closed position facing each other and an open position. A tray has a planar body portion and an anchor portion. The tray body portion includes an annular rosette of fingers on each side thereof for releasably securing a compact disc thereto. The tray body and the tray anchor are pivotally connected together and the tray anchor is secured to one of the cover parts. As a result, when the cover parts are pivoted to an open position, the tray body is pivoted about the tray anchor to facilitate installation and removal of compact discs from both sides of the tray body.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a storage case that includes a case body, a case cover, a supporting plate and a four-link mechanism. Claim 1 recites that the four-link mechanism includes a first hinge pivotally supporting the case body and the case cover in an openable/closeable manner, a second hinge via which the base end of the supporting plate is pivotally supported by the case body in an openable/closeable manner such that the holding segment of the supporting plate faces the case body, and a third hinge and a fourth hinge via which opposite ends of an arm segment disposed between the supporting plate and the case cover are pivotally supported by the supporting plate and the case cover in an openable/closeable manner such that, upon opening or closing the case cover relative to the case body, the support plate and the case cover move simultaneously with one another. Claim 1 also recites that when the case cover is being closed over the case body in a state in which said at least one portion of the object to be stored is held by the holding segment of the supporting plate, the object to be stored is rotated so as to be positioned below the supporting plate, whereby the object to be stored and the supporting plate become stored in a storing

position of the case body, and wherein when the case cover is being opened from the case body, the stored object is rotated so as to be positioned above the supporting plate, whereby the stored object and the supporting plate are drawn out from the case body.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1, as now amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a third hinge and a fourth hinge via which opposite ends of an arm segment disposed between a supporting plate and a case cover are pivotally supported by the supporting plate and the case cover in an openable/closeable manner such that, upon opening or closing the case cover relative to the case body, the support plate and the case cover move simultaneously with one another. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Liu. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is

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desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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